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## **GATCOM 18 JULY 2019**

### **KEY MESSAGES AND OUTCOMES FROM MEETING**

The agenda and papers considered at the meeting are available on GATCOM's website at <http://www.gatcom.org.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>

#### **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

[Helyn Clack, Surrey County Council](#), was appointed as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

#### **INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON CIVIL AVIATION NOISE (ICCAN)**

Simon Henley, ICCAN Commissioner, gave a [presentation](#) on ICCAN's work, its Corporate Strategy and the key points raised in its response to the Government's Aviation Green Paper. The key points to note are:

- ICCAN's two year aim is to improve public confidence and trust in the management of aviation noise.
- ICCAN's [Corporate Strategy](#) is based on its engagement over the first four months. It received around 100 responses from interested parties and the comments received will shape and drive the final strategy and the work programme priorities.
- ICCAN responded to the Aviation Green Paper stating that noise should be considered with the same priority as air quality and climate change, aviation expansion should not come at any cost in relation to noise, it supported a national indicator to track long-term performance in reducing noise, and that it was not currently persuaded of the value of noise action plans in delivering intended outcomes.
- ICCAN will work with airport consultative committees (ACCs) and will review the way in which airports consult with their communities when planning airspace changes. It aims to publish best practice guidance in April 2020.
- It was highlighted that many people who fly were not aware of the impact this had on local communities under flight paths. ICCAN wishes to see improved information given to passengers on the environmental impacts of flight choices.
- ICCAN will seek to work across Government departments in pursuing its work.

GATCOM welcomes the opportunity to work with ICCAN in progressing its work plan, particularly in respect of its review of guidance for consultation and the work of ACCs.

#### **GATCOM CHAIR'S REFLECTIONS & SUGGESTIONS – THE FIRST SIX MONTHS**

The Chair outlined his initial [thoughts and suggestions](#) about the work of GATCOM, its membership and how it operates. The key points to note are:

- it is important that GATCOM maintains the right balance in its membership and business between promoting measures to reduce and mitigate the negative impacts generated by the airport's operation and supporting and promoting the economic benefits it brings locally and nationally.
- The need for GATCOM to take stock of what it does and how it communicates its work is to be discussed in detail at an awayday for members to be arranged in the Autumn.
- To develop a GATCOM strategy and work plan following the deliberations at the away day.

GATCOM agreed the away day would be beneficial. The Secretariat will advise members of the date and venue in the near future.

#### **GATCOM STEERING GROUP**

The Chair's [report](#) of the GATCOM Steering Group meeting was received. Key points to note, not covered elsewhere on the meeting agenda, are:

- **GAL's Noise Metrics work** – GATCOM noted GAL's progress on two of its END Noise Action Plan actions:
  - low power/low drag metric work which is being progressed through the industry organisation "Sustainable Aviation" due to being of wider national interest. The final report is expected at the end of the summer;
  - new noise metrics work to complement the current Gatwick noise contours.
 While the future of the Noise Management Board is being addressed GAL was asked to report progress through NATMAG.
- **Review of GAL's Noise Insulation Scheme** – this is another END Noise Action Plan action. GAL has commenced its review of the current Noise Insulation Scheme and is currently obtaining feedback from its contractor and households where insulation has been installed. The Steering Group has put forward a number of helpful suggestions (see para 7.3 of report) for GAL to consider as part of the feedback on the current scheme. Local authorities will also be contacted as part of the review. GATCOM will be kept informed as the review progresses.
- **GAL's Decade of Change Progress report** – GAL's achievements have been welcomed by the Steering Group who encouraged GAL to take forward its sustainability work and to challenge itself going into the next decade. A presentation on progress would be given to a future GATCOM meeting.
- **Airport related car parking** – following GATCOM's request a couple of years ago for GAL to set up a meeting with local authorities to look at the problems experienced by local residents, meetings continue to be held. GAL is proactively looking at different ways to address the problems with taxi drivers waiting in local roads around the airport including developing a code of conduct for taxi companies. A further meeting with local authorities is planned for October. The Chair encouraged all local authorities to participate in the meeting including officers.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer's [commentary](#) on activity and performance of Gatwick over the previous quarter was received. The key points to note are:

- **Ownership** – Gatwick's new [long term partnership](#) with VINCI Airports and Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP) was confirmed in May when the sale of a 50.01% stake in the airport to VINCI was completed. GIP continues to manage the remaining 49.99% interest in Gatwick.
- **Annual financial results** – were published in June which revealed another successful year for Gatwick.
- **Traffic Growth** - Gatwick handled 46.4 million passengers in 2018/19 with long haul routes showing strong growth (+14.3%) with around 1 in 5 Gatwick passengers now travelling long haul.
- **Service Quality** – Gatwick continues to achieve all its regulatory core service standards and passenger satisfaction scores for both arriving and departing passengers remain high.
- **Air Traffic Control System Outage** – following a 2 hour IT systems outage on 10 July disrupting many flights and passengers' travel plans, GAL's air traffic control provider, ANS, is fully investigating the cause of the outage and reviewing the lessons learned. GATCOM Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) will review the airport's handling of the disruption in terms of the impact to passengers and users of the airport.
- **Gatwick Station Funding** – on 8 July GAL jointly announced with the DfT, Network Rail and the Coast to Capital LEP the approved funding for the station redevelopment project.
- **CAA Accessibility Monitoring results 2018/19** - Gatwick has received a rating of 'Good' for the services it provides for persons requiring special assistance at the airport, which is an improvement on its rating in 2017/18 of 'needing improvement'. GATCOM congratulated GAL on the progress made in improving the quality of service to passengers.

## AIRPORT MASTER PLAN - PUBLICATION

GAL gave a [presentation](#) on the publication of the final Airport Master Plan and Report of Consultation. GAL provided an overview of the outcome of the consultation responses on the draft Master Plan and the nature of the positive and negative responses to each of the consultation questions posed. Taking into account consultation feedback, GAL announced that:

- In line with Government policy, it will continue to make best use of Gatwick's main runway using new technology to build capacity and resilience;
- It will start the preparation of a planning application to bring the existing standby runway into routine use for departures only alongside the main runway;
- It is recommending that planning policy continues to safeguard land to the south of the airport but emphasised that it is no longer actively pursuing plans for an additional runway.

GAL outlined the planning process to take forward its proposal to bring the existing standby runway into routine use. Under the Planning Act 2008, GAL's proposal is termed a 'nationally significant infrastructure project' and therefore will be required to seek permission for a Development Consent Order (DCO). Under this process the planning submission is made direct to the Planning Inspectorate with the decision made by the Secretary of State. GAL outlined the six stages of the DCO process, which would take a number of years to complete, and what GAL was required to do in the 'pre-application stage' of the process.

The next steps - GAL will begin work to gather economic, social and environmental information including carrying out further surveys and scoping. It will also continue to engage with local authorities/public bodies and statutory consultees. The next stage of formal consultation is likely to take place in 2020 and GAL will publicise dates in advance as well as setting out how and where it will carry out consultation.

[Click here](#) to see GAL's presentation slides

[Click here](#) to see press release

[Click here](#) to see Master Plan, Report of Consultation and other details.

The Chair reminded GATCOM of its previously agreed position that given the wide range of views across the Committee's membership, GATCOM is not in a position to oppose or support Gatwick's growth plans but that it would instead focus on those matters of common interest and concern to communities and interested parties around Gatwick to help build an understanding and how issues can be addressed.

GATCOM agreed that a more detailed discussion on the planning (DCO) process and next steps would take place at the meeting of the GATCOM Steering Group on Thursday 19 September to which all members and supporting officers are invited to attend. A full report of the Steering Group's deliberations will be given at the next GATCOM meeting.

GATCOM issued [press statement](#) immediately following the meeting to reflect the Committee's previously agreed position.

### **2018 NOISE EXPOSURE CONTOURS**

GATCOM's Independent Technical Adviser's [report](#) summarising the results of noise modelling at Gatwick Airport for the summer period of 2018 was received. The full report by the Environmental Research and Consultancy Department (ERCD) of the Civil Aviation Authority (ERCD Report 1802) is available on GAL's [website](#).

The results show that:

- the 2018 modal split of the runway direction operation had returned to more like the 20-year average with the summer day actual modal split being 72% west/ 28% east.
- The area of the actual noise contours had decreased by 9% and 6% for the 54dBA and 57dBA contours respectively (the standard contours showed a decrease of 7% and 6% respectively) with the population count in those contours also reducing. The reductions are directly attributable to a combination of the FOPP modification programme for A320 aircraft, improvements in operational procedures such as low power/low drag procedures, the introduction of new A320 NEO aircraft and a slight downturn in the number of aircraft movements.

### **NOISE MANAGEMENT BOARD (NMB)**

The Secretariat's [report](#) on the future of the NMB and next steps was considered. GATCOM agreed:

- To support GAL's approach to take forward the new term of the NMB as set out in GAL's letter;
- That the proposed appointment process for the independent Chairs for the new NMB Executive Board and the NMB Community Forum, which was based on the appointment process used to appoint the GATCOM chair, involving a panel comprising the different interest groups be endorsed;
- That the draft job descriptions for the independent Chairs were appropriate but members were asked to submit any specific points to the Secretariat as soon as possible;
- To have a further report on relationships between the NMB, the various groups in GAL's noise governance structure and GATCOM at a future meeting.

### **GAL'S NEW NOISE AND TRACK KEEPING SYSTEM**

GAL [presented](#) an overview of its new noise and track keeping system, the first phase of which went live on 1 April 2019 which included the introduction of an automated telephone system to

register noise complaints. Work on the second phase of the project, which includes the development of the public noise website, public data, analytics provision and mapping system continues with expected implementation during the summer. A further 13 noise monitors (1 fixed and 12 mobile) will also be delivered as part of this phase of the project (adding to the 10 noise monitors (4 fixed and 6 mobile) delivered as part of phase one of the project).

A demonstration of the new system and flight tracker was given:

- [Click here](#) to see GAL's Noise Enquiries webpage
- [Click here](#) to see Webtrak
- [Click here](#) to see Flight 3D

GATCOM welcomed GAL's investment in such a sophisticated but easy to use system.

## **AIRSPACE UPDATES**

### **FASI-South**

Following two rounds of engagement, GAL submitted its design principles to the CAA on 13 June. The design principles are available on the [CAA's airspace design portal](#). The CAA has now approved the design principles and has given agreement for GAL to proceed to the next stage in the process (known as Stage 2: Develop and Assess).

The next stage (Stage 2) of the process will involve two steps – options development and options appraisal. This will involve the iterative development of options with a wide range of existing stakeholders and the introduction of parish councils and similar organisations as and when appropriate. The objective is to develop a shortlist of options for the airspace change on which to formally consult (Stage 3) in 2021.

### **Route 4**

The current situation in respect of progressing the permanent airspace change proposal for Route 4 is very complex. The latest position is set out on [GAL's airspace blog](#).

GATCOM's elected representatives local to Route 4 asked GAL to ensure that as part of the route options designs that dispersal of flight paths across the noise preferential route (NPR) swathe is fully considered and included as an option for consultation.

Given the complicated history of the use of and changes to Route 4 which needs to be clearly communicated to all parties, GATCOM asked that the Chair, new Vice-Chair, Helyn Clack, and GATCOM's lead/deputy member for noise, review with GAL its communications to ensure the information relating to this route are as clear as possible for the lay person to understand.

### **NOISE AND TRACK MONITORING ADVISORY GROUP (NATMAG)**

GATCOM's Lead Member for Noise [summary report](#) of the deliberations of NATMAG was noted as were the key messages to GATCOM.

Specific reference was made to GAL's support, funding and sponsorship for a wide range of community events. A presentation on GAL's work in this area would be given to a future meeting.

### **LOCAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING**

GATCOM received the [report](#) prepared jointly by GAL and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (R&BBC) on the results of annual monitoring of air quality in the Horley Gardens Estate Air Quality Management Area and at other sites in the vicinity of the airport. The key points to note are:

- Whilst the annual average air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide was not met at one receptor on the A23 (confined to a small number of properties at the junction of the A23 with Massetts Road), primarily due to road traffic (airport and non-airport related), local sources of pollution within the Horley Gardens Estate Air Quality Management Area were slightly lower at the "worse affected" residential properties and elsewhere the decreases were in line with decreases seen in other areas across the Borough.
- The non-attainment of the air quality objective at the monitoring site on the A23 needs further attention and R&BBC and GAL are currently exploring potential mitigation measures.
- following a successful research bid by Kings College and Imperial College in 2017 R&BBC started measuring UFPs in the vicinity of Gatwick and had presented the [interim results](#) to the GATCOM Steering Group. The funding for this project finished in mid-July. R&BBC is currently in discussion with GAL about funding to continue the research monitoring of Ultrafine Particles (UFPs). GATCOM will be kept informed of the outcome of those discussions.

GATCOM expressed its thanks to Mr Hibbs from R&BBC for the informative and comprehensive report. All the air quality annual monitoring reports since 2007 are available on [GATCOM's website](#).

### **PASSENGER ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)**

The [report](#) from the Chair of PAG was considered. The key points to note are:

- PAG raised concerns about GAL's increase in the passenger complaints handling times from 14 days to 28 days as part of its service level agreement review. PAG will continue to monitor GAL's complaints handling performance as the majority of complaints are likely to be resolved well within the 28 days.
- PAG will discuss with GAL, Network Rail, and train operating companies on the contingency plans to minimise disruption arising from the construction of the Gatwick Station redevelopment project.
- A23 bus stops improvement project, which provides the new accessible routes from the South Terminal to the A23 Bus Stops, will be formally opened on 25 July.

### **GATWICK AREA COMMUNITY TRUST (GACT)**

GATCOM received an [update](#) on the work of GACT from Alan Jones (Burstow Parish Council), GATCOM's nominated trustee on GACT. GAL provides funding in excess of £200,000 for GACT under the terms of the Section 106 agreement which comprises a set contribution from GAL and those monies collected from aircraft noise penalty fines.

The outcome from this year's grant applications was noted with grants awarded totaling £167,222 allocated to 97 local projects.

The DfT has recently discussed community trust funds and the work of GACT with Mr Jones as part of the review of the Aviation Strategy. It was felt that whilst some UK airports had differing schemes in place, the GACT was viewed as a model of best practice.

### **APPOINTMENT OF SUB-GROUPS**

- **GATCOM Steering Group and Passenger Advisory Group** – GATCOM appointed members to serve on both groups for the ensuing year.
- **Gatwick Airport Limited's NATMAG** – GATCOM appointed seven members to serve on GAL's NATMAG as follows:
  - Matthew Balfour (Kent County Council)
  - Mike George (Horley Town Council)
  - Alan Jones (Burstow Parish Council)
  - Liz Kitchen (Horsham District Council)
  - Liz Lockwood (Tandridge District Council)
  - Caroline Salmon (Mole Valley District Council)

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting has been re-scheduled to take place on Thursday 17 October 2019 at 2.00 p.m. GATCOM's Annual Tour of areas of the airport will take in the morning of the meeting.

**Paula Street**  
**Secretariat**